Message Text

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FOL RPT CAIRO 0137 ACTION SECSTATE INFO ALGIERS AMMAN BAGHDAD BEIRUT DAMASCUS JIDDA KUWAIT PARIS RABAT TRIPOLI TUNIS USEC BRUSSELS 4 JAN QUOTE

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E.O. 11652: NA TAGS: PFOR EG XF

SUBJ: ARAB FONMINS TO DISCUSS EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE IN CAIRO

- 1. ARAB LEAGUE HAS AWAKENED FROM ITS POST-RIYADH/CAIRO SUMMIT TORPOR TO INVITE ARAB FONMINS TO CAIRO FOR TALKS ON EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE JANUARY 15 IN PREPARATION FOR FEBRUARY CONFERENCE IN TUNISIA. SECGEN MAHMUD RIAD SENT INVITATION AT REQUEST OF TUNISIANS, WHO REPORTEDLY REMINDED HIM THAT SUCH A MEETING REQUIRED BY AL RESOLUTIONS.
- 2. RIAD SAID PUBLICLY DIALOGUE HAS COME A LONG WAY BUT ANY PROSPECTIVE EURO-ARAB JOINT VENTURES STILL NEED DETAILED DISCUSSION.
- 3. ARAB LEAGUE SOURCE TOLD POLCOUNS JANUARY 4 THAT, PRESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TREATMENT ASIDE, CAIRO AND TUNIS MEETINGS WOULD BOTH PROBABLY
BE HELD AT AMBASSADORIAL RATHER THAN FONMIN LEVEL. SOURCE
COMMENTED THAT MAJOR DIFFICULTY ARABS HAVE IN EURO-DIALOGUE CONTEXT
IS FACT THAT WEALTHY STATES, SUCH AS SAUDI ARABIA AND IRAQ
ARE ABLE AND PREFER TO SATISFY ALL THEIR REQUIREMENTS
VIS-A-VIS EUROPE ON PURELY BILATERAL BASIS. THEY SEE EUROARAB TALKS AS HOLDING NOTHING FOR THEM AND CONSEQUENTLY SHOWN

LITTLE INTEREST IN FINANCING ARAB SIDE OF ANY ARRANGEMENT WITH EUROPEANS. EILTS
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